

Practitioner's Docket No. MPI00-212CP1CN1M

USSN: 10/644,671

Preliminary AmendmentIn the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-23 and add claims 24-33. This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the applications:

24. (New) A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

b) a polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence which is at least 93% identical to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, or at least 83% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21; and

c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-2085;

the method comprising:

i) contacting a sample comprising the polypeptide with a test compound under conditions suitable for binding; and

ii) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide;

thereby identifying a compound which binds to the polypeptide.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the sample is an isolated polypeptide, a membrane-bound form of an isolated polypeptide or a cell comprising the polypeptide.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) direct detection of test compound/polypeptide binding;

b) a competition binding assay; and

c) a two-hybrid assay or three-hybrid assay.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the test compound is labeled.

(Page 2 of 5)

Practitioner's Docket No. MPI00-212CP1CN1M

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29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of a radioisotope label and an enzymatic label.
30. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein further comprising heterologous sequences.
31. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:
- a) cytokine production assay; and
 - b) T-cell proliferation assay.
32. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
33. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:21.

(Page 3 of 5)